

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM**  
**2012 FACT SHEET**

1. **GLOBAL:** Worldwide, tuberculosis (TB) affects mostly young adults in their most productive years, and is a leading killer of people who are HIV infected. An estimated two billion persons (i.e., one third of the world's population) are infected with TB. In 2011, the World Health Organization estimates there were 8.7 million new cases of TB disease and 1.4 million died from TB.
2. **NATIONAL:** Nationally, the number of TB cases in the United States has been declining for nearly two decades. In 2011, a total of 10,528 cases were reported nationwide, representing a 6% decrease from 11,171 cases in 2010. The proportion of cases among individuals born outside the United States increased from 42% of the national total in 1998 (7,599 cases) to 62% of the national total (6,510 cases) in 2011.
3. **SAN DIEGO:** San Diego County reported 234 cases of active TB in 2012 (case rate of 7.4 per 100,000 population). This represents a 11% decrease from 2011 (263 cases in 2011), and a 5% increase above 2010 and 2009 (223 cases in 2009; 222 cases in 2010). The number of cases in 2012 was 50% lower than 1993 (469 cases), the year with the highest number of cases in decades, and 26% lower than the 5-year average from 2002-2006 (316 cases).
4. **AGE:** The median age of TB cases in San Diego County was 43, and ranged from 1 to 93 years old. This is the sixth consecutive year the number of cases in children less than 15 years old (11 cases) remained lower than the 5-year average from 2002-2006 (27 cases). Persons aged 25 to 64 made up the largest group of TB cases with 133 (57%). The remaining cases occurred in persons 65 and older (48 cases) and persons aged 15 to 24 years old (42 cases).
5. **RACE/ETHNICITY:** The racial and ethnic breakdown of San Diego County TB cases was 128 (55%) Hispanics, 78 (33%) Asian/Pacific Islanders, 16 (7%) non-Hispanic whites and 12 (5%) non-Hispanic blacks.
6. **BIRTH COUNTRY:** TB cases born outside of the United States comprised 71% of San Diego County's cases. Of the 167 cases born outside the United States, 77 (46%) were from Asia (including 53 from the Philippines, and 8 from Vietnam), 73 (44%) were from Mexico, and 9 (5%) were from Africa.
7. **CHILDREN:** There were 6 cases of TB reported among children less than five years of age in San Diego County (3% of all cases). This represents an 85% decrease from 1993 (39 cases), and a 60% decrease from the annual 5-year average from 2002-2006 (15 cases). Since 2007, 10 or fewer cases in this age group have been reported each year. TB in children of this age is of concern because it often represents recent transmission of infection from adults to children.
8. **DRUG RESISTANCE:** TB drug susceptibility information was obtained on 183 (99%) of the 184 culture-proven cases in San Diego. Resistance to at least one of the four major first-line drugs was found among 41 (22%) of these specimens. Multidrug-resistant (MDR TB) strains were found in 2 (1.1%) of the cases. During 1999-2012, a total of 49 MDR TB cases were reported in San Diego and none were extensively drug-resistant (XDR). Of the 49 cases, 40 (82%) were among persons born outside the US, including 19 (39%) from Mexico. Vigilance in diagnosing MDR TB and close monitoring of treatment is of extreme importance because of the difficulty in successfully treating such strains and the risk of spread within the community.
9. **BOVIS:** Among the 184 culture-proven cases in 2012, a total of 19 (10%) had disease from *M. bovis*. Only one of these cases occurred in a child less than 15 years old. This represents the sixth consecutive year of a sustained decrease from the annual 5-year average, 2002-2006, of 30 cases of TB due to *M. bovis*. Of 54 culture-proven cases in 2012 among persons born in Mexico, 12 (22%) had *M. bovis*. Disease due to *M. bovis*, also known as bovine tuberculosis, is usually contracted through the consumption of unpasteurized dairy products. Person-to-person transmission is also believed to occur.
10. **RISK GROUPS:** HIV is the strongest known medical risk factor for TB disease once TB infection occurs. During 2012, a total of 18 (8%) of the 234 persons reported with TB were also co-infected with HIV. The most common medical risk factor was diabetes (21% of TB cases). Other risk groups included persons with end-stage renal disease (3%), immunosuppressive treatment or conditions (7%), and drug use history (20%).